Bible & Daily Living

Christ's omniscient power

By William L. Trimyer
Christ's Power Over Mind and Matter
Lesson for March 21, 1982
Bible Study Passage: Mark 5:1-15
Introduction

Christ exhibited amazing powers over evil and illness. The miracle of Christ stilling the tempest moved the disciples to inquiare, "What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Jesus exercised a profound sense of authority over the powers in the natural order. He also overpowered the demonic natures he sometimes encountered in human beings. After each miraculous event the people would marvel at Jesus and his mighty works.

Nothing escapes the authority and power of Christ. In our lesson this week we witness the powerful affect Jesus had upon the man possessed of demonic powers. The story of the "Gadarene Demoniac" is a moving drama of how one ill-fated man experienced the freeing power of Christ.

At the end of the story we discover the demoniac sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. The frenzy of the demons is passed and the man is at peace.

Christ Meets the Pathetic Man [Mark 5:1-5]

Jesus met a man who had been isolated and shackeled in the tombs outside of town. The shackles were used in order to protect the townspeople, or so they thought.

Jesus shows the man something he has not seen nor experienced, compassion and a willingness to become involved.

Jesus Confronts the Demons (Mark 4:6-13)

It is interesting that the demons somehow recognized Jesus and acknowledged his supremacy and authority. They were obviously afraid and intimidated by the very sight of Jesus.

That the demons requested they be allowed to enter a herd of swine is difficult to understand. Why Jesus ever permitted the demonic spirits to inhabit the swine is equally disturbing.

The powers of darkness always submit to the powers of Christ. Of course, after Jesus brought peace to the demoniac the news spread like a brushfire throughout the countryside. The people flocked together to witness this strange phenomenon.

And what did they see? They saw a human being made whole; they saw the evil spirit tamed and the madman freed from his despair and disease.

What a blessing to the sufferer; set free from the bondage and slavery of disease and restored to society and friends and to all the joys and privileges of being truly human.

The Town's Response [Mark 5:14-15]

The miracle of healing was not received with enthusiasm by the townspeople. What should have been a blessing to the community was seen as a curse. At least the people did not have to worry any longer about the demoniac. No more danger to travelers who took shortcuts through the tombs. No more fear of the madman's madness. The people of this town were terribly selfish.

But two thousand hogs had been killed for this one man! Such a large sum of money for a madman. Gone, two thousand prime hogs dumped into the sea. This was what the townfolk of Gadarene were worried about, that good prime pork had been destroyed for the sake of a demon possessed maniac. Their concern for the loss of the hogs obscured all sense of gratitude for the wonderous work of grace.

The people's response to Jesus was to ask him to leave town. "Depart from our coasts," they cried. They should have seen and known that Jesus would choose a person over swine.

The church must follow the leading of Christ and seek to attack those "demons" which destroy human life. Christ's followers are called to battle against the demons of injustice, poverty, hunger and powers which rob people of their truest humanity.

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Illinois (WL-YP).

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The Pastor Speaks

By Rex Bennett
How Does God Get His Message Across?
11 Corinthians 5:18-21

There are times when you can turn a thought upside down and the answer you are seeking may become clearer to you! For instance: some people are asking the question or expressing the thought today: "What has happened to God today in the affairs of men and the world? Has God simply created the world, and turned it over to the destruction of some maligniant evil?" Let's turn this question upside down for a moment: 'What has happened to men, and indeed what has happened to the world?" It isn't that something has happeped to God; it is rather that something has happened to us who are suppose to represent Him in the world. God is indeed "the same yesterday, today, and forever;" and this is still His world; and the Christian Church is the cultural exorcist, or as Paul wrote to those Corinthian Christians in the above scripture: ".... (God) has committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now we are ambassadors for Christ...."

How then does God get His message across today? That message doesn't come through the earthquake, the wind, and fire; it comes through your life and mine as we seek to reproduce the quality of Christ's spirit within ourselves. As a matter of fact, the New Testament teaches us that God's final word to the world has come to us in Jesus Christ; and that means, God has nothing more to say except as we say it to the world about His Son and our Saviour, Jesus Christ. "We are indeed ambassadors for Christ...we pray you in Christ's stead, be you reconciled to God."

What is that word from God in Christ that we must say to this world? There are three important things for which our Lord lived and died, and we must do the same if God is to be heard by our world.

1. Absolute trust in God through Jesus Christ who was God. We must live with that trust and we must voice that message of the encompassing providence of God for the essentials for living.

2. Absolute invincible good-will toward others which is the meaning of Christian love. "Red and yellow, black and white, all are precious in His sight...." that we must sing but we must also live it in our experiences and human relationships.

3. Absolute honesty with oneself which involves the objective critical gaze at one's own life and attitudes and sins. We must concentrate on the beam in our own eye rather than the mot in another's eye.

The question isn't "what has happen to God" but rather, "what has happened to us" - God gets His message across through your life and mine!

Times-Virginian Church News

March 21
Church dedication set

Dedication of Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church will be held Sunday, March 21 at 11:00 a.m. with the Bishop of the Diocese of Richmond, the Most Rev. Walter F. Sullivan, officiating.

The service begins outside of church with the building committee chairman, Vincent Volturo handing over the keys and especially blessed, as well as furnishings used for worship, the altar, the pulpis and the presider's chair, all constructed by Tommy Ranson of J. E. Jamerson and Sons, Inc.

A special program booklet has been printed to enable all to participate in the service by responding and singing. All who are unable to attend the Special Liturgy are invited to the Open House till 3:00 p.m. Members of the church will receive all guests, give them a tour of the building and offer them refreshments.

Pastor, Father Albert F. Pereira will be spending Sundays and Mondays, and possibly Thursdays in this area. His other church is St. Victoria's in Hurt, where he resides.

THE JIMMY MEADOR FAMILY will appear at Bethel Bible Church March 21 during the morning worship service at 11 a.m. Jimmy, his wife Alice and their daughters Denise, Sherry and Valerie are from Moneta, Ga. The public is cordially invited to attend this gospel singing event. The church is located next to the railroad tracks on Linden Street in the Town of Appomattox.

ACHS Chorale to perform *Gospel sing set*

The Appomattox County High School Chorale, under the direction of Steve Lawrence, will present a sacred concert, Sunday, March 21 at 3:00 p.m. at the Memorial United Methodist Church in Appomattox.

The Chorale will perform sacred works by Bach, Mozart, and Rachmaninoffs as well as several traditional spirituals. Mrs. Anne Coffey, organist, Debra Johnson and Scott Drinkard, pianists, will accompany the concert.

The public is cordially invited to attend.

Obituaries

Ralph Leslie Hawkins

Ralph Leslie Hawkins, 85, died Wednesday evening, March 10, in the Medical Care Center, Lynchburg.

He was born in Portsmouth, Ohio, a son of the late Frank Everett Hawkins and Ella Winkler Hawkins.

He was a member of Memorial United Methodist Church and a member of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, Kazim Temple, Roanoke. He resided in Roanoke for 65 years and for 45 years he worked for the N&W Railway. He retired in 1961 as District Manager of the Coal Traffic Department of the N&W Railway. He and his wife have resided at Babcock Manor for the past three years.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Beulah Kyle Hawkins; a daughter, Mrs. Martin L. (Ruth) Webb, and a grandson, Douglas Martin Webb, both of Appomattox.

Graveside services were conducted on Friday at 2 p.m. at the Liberty Cemetery by the Rev. Edward Leonard.

Robinson Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Steven Willis McCoy

Steven Willis (Tee) McCoy, 65, of Route 4 died Sunday at McGuire Veterans Hospital, Richmond. He was the husband of Elizabeth McCoy.

Born in Appomattox, the son of the late Steven and Nannie Ferguson McCoy, he was a member, treasurer and trustee of Mount Airy Baptist Church and a retired disabled veteran of World War II.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by six sons, Seibert, Richard and Tony McCoy, all of Appomattox, Willis and Michael McCoy, both of Harrisburg, Pa., and Sgt. Bernis McCoy of U. S. Army, El Paso, Texas; one daughter, Ms. Uwara McCoy of Appomattox; three brothers, Edward and Paul McCoy, both of Appomattox, and Pete McCoy of Charlottesville; two sisters, Mrs. Judy Coleman and Mrs. Martha Moms, both of Charlottesville; one aunt, Mrs. Maude Carter of Charlottesville; six daughters-in-law; 20 grandchildren; three foster children; five sisters-in-law; two brothers-in-law; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Funeral services will be held today (Thursday) at 3 p.m. at Mt. Airy Baptist Church with the Rev. W. H. Pryor officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

West Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

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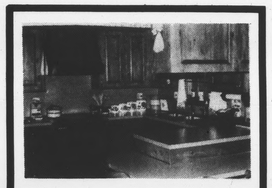
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Session 5: March 28 at 11:00 a.m.
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Tommy Coy, Pastor — 352-5769

Hollywood news

By MARY BAGBY

We then that are strong ought to hear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves (Romans 15:1)

The W.M.U. of Hollywood church met in the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Webb and Miss Joyce Webb Tuesday evening for the week of prayer program for Home Mission. There were 13 members and two visitors present. "The World is Here" topic of the program was very effectively presented and enjoyed, also the social hour afterwards. We members of Hollywood are happy that we have reached our goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter offering.

Relatives and friends extend sincere sympathy to the family and love ones of Mr. Ralph Hawkins who passed away last week.

A large crowd attended the shower given Mr. and Mrs. Roger Dale Franklin, Jr. Saturday evening in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Franklin. They received many nice and useful gifts. Everyone enjoyed themselves so much. Many good wishes are extended this young couple.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Woodson spent Tuesday with the L. L. Webbs, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Covington and Mr. Jim Webb visited in this home last week.

We are so glad to hear Dr. Clyde O'Brien, Mr. Red Jamerson, Mr. Irvin Bingham and Mr. Grover Beasley are all improving. May each of them have a very speedy recovery.

We were sorry to hear Mrs. Irvin Moses is a patient in the Lynchburg General Hospital. Our prayers are with her and her love ones.

Mrs. Claude Hamlett of Hurt visited her mother, Mrs. Virgie Beasley Tuesday.

Mrs. Annette Millner visited Mr. and Mrs. Robert Coleman Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Conifix visited in this home Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. W. H. Wingfield went to Lynchburg Thursday for her check-up and called in the homes of her brothers, Whit and Clem Woodall and families.

Mr. Thomas Woodall spent Monday night in Marietta, Ohio with his uncle, Mr. Frank Covington and Cousins, Helen and James Bondurant.

Visitors Sunday of Mr. Walker and Richard Webb and Mr. and Mrs. David Repass and family were Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Robinson and Miss Lorraine Brennen.

Mrs. Andy Davis and daughter, Robin visited her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Clabo Saturday of Cumberland.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Woodall and daughter, Lisa and Mrs. Aaron Wilson spent the weekend in Covington with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Coffey.

Mrs. Kenneth Deaner and Miss Dawn Deaner attended the wedding Saturday afternoon of Miss Jane Almond and Mr. Edward Mason Jr Rocks Baptist Church. Dawn was a bridesmaid in the wedding.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Inge, Dana and Scott Inge of Lynchburg have returned home from a vacation at Ormond Beach, Fla. They visited Mr. Inge's mother, Mrs. Madeline Inge Sunday.

Mrs. Madeline Inge was a luncheon guest of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Childers of Lynchburg last week.

Mrs. Inge visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Thompson and Mr. John Inge of Concord in the afternoon.

Calling in the home of Mrs. Mary Bagby last week were Mrs. Kenneth Deaner and daughter, Delorious Anne, Vickie Davis and Robin, Katherine and Julia Wingfield, Thomas, Ruby and Lisa Woodall, Mrs. Aaron Wilson, Mr. Alfred Almond, Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Watson, Sr.

Rev. and Mrs. Dan Meeser and son, Mike, Mr. Grover Beasley, Jr. and Mrs. Thelma Conner visited in the Martin-Wooldridge nursing home Sunday.

Mr. Sammy Inge visited his mother, Mrs. Madeline Inge Thursday for the day.

Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Webb visited Mr. and Mrs. Willie Craft and family Sunday. Visiting Mr. and Mrs. Webb last week were Mr. Walker Webb, Mr. Jim Webb and Dewitt Goin.

We are very sorry to hear that Mr. Marshall Goin cut his hand real bad Saturday while cutting wood. We wish him a very speedy recovery.

We are very sorry to hear Mr. Terry Brennen is a patient in the Lynchburg General Hospital. May he have a very speedy recovery.

Keep Up With Local Happenings Read The Times-Virginian

Chestnut Grove news

The Chestnut Grove Homemakers Club met Monday with eight member present.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shepherd of Cumberland were Saturday visitors of Mr. and Mrs. C. Henson Morris.

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Morris and family; Mr. and Mrs. Don Morris and family; Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Morris and Cindy; and Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur St. John were among those attending a tea for Mr. and Mrs. Chris Hardiman Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Hardiman near Dillwyn.

Sunday afternoon visitors in the home of Mr. and Mrs. K. M. Beasley, Jr. were Mr. and Mrs. Harold Akers; Mr. and Mrs. Earl Alderman and Mr. and Mrs. Andy Hawkins, all of Christianburg.

Mr. and Mrs. K. M. Beasley, Jr. and family were Saturday night visitors of Mrs. Katherine Carson at Spout Spring.

Aubrey N. Morris is a patient in Virginia Baptist Hospital in Lynchburg. We hope he has a speedy recovery.

Mrs. Bob Mann of Dillwyn was a Sunday afternoon visitor of Mrs. Alice Senger.

C. Wayne Cook of Richmond spent the weekend with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Cook.

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